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SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION
AND NORTH VIETNAM

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Following is the full translation of an article
entitled: "The Soviet Union and Vietnam unceasingly
tighten their scientific cooperation" by V.A.
Kotelnikov, in Leo Dong (Labor), No. 762, 21 June
1960, p.37.

(Editorial note: This is an article by comrade Kotelnikov, Head
of the Delegation of the Soviet Academy of Science that visited
Vietnam in March 1960, written for Leo Dong on the occasion of the
signing of the Vietnam-Soviet agreement on cooperation for the
expansion of the production of tropical industrial plants.)

The scientific cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam
began a few years ago.

In November 1955, a delegate of the Research Committee on
Literature, History, and Geography of Vietnam attended the meeting
of the Soviet Academy of Science on the occasion of the 50th
anniversary of the 1905 Soviet Revolution. In 1957 and 1960, Soviet
and Vietnamese geologists have collaborated in making geological
maps and completing the classification of different types of soil
in North Vietnam, etc.

In Physics, Vietnamese researchers have been working at the

Soviet Institute of Research ¹on Isotopes at Dubna (Soviet Union) with the delegates of other socialist countries. In Summer 1958, a Vietnamese delegation attended the conference of the Commission for the International Geophysical Year in Moscow.

Besides the exchange of scientific delegations which began in 1958, the Soviet Academy of Science also helped Vietnam train science cadres. A great number of Vietnamese students have been admitted to Soviet universities, and a number of Soviet specialists have been teaching in Vietnamese universities.

In 1959, a Vietnamese delegate participated in the International Conference on High-Energy Elements, held at Kiev (Soviet Union). At the end of 1959, a delegate of the Soviet Academy of Science attended the Conference of the Commission of Research on Fishery in the Western part of the Pacific in Hanoi. In 1959, the Soviet Union sent a specialist to Vietnam to help organize the research on natural resources. At the same time, the Soviet Academy of Science admitted 2 Vietnamese technicians as trainees at the Research Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism, Electromagnetic waves, and Radiowave Propagation, and 5 Vietnamese cadres as trainees at the Zoological Institute for one year.

The visit to Vietnam in Spring 1960 of a Soviet Scientific Delegation of which I had the honor to be the leader, played an important role in the cooperation between Soviet and Vietnamese scientists. There were many famous scientists in this Delegation.

The Delegation has met science and culture cadres, workers,

civil servants, farmers, and students.

After a survey of the situation of scientific research in Vietnam, the Delegation made some observations about a few problems such as the training of science cadres, the building up and development of research institutions, the organization of the research on natural resources of Vietnam, and the determination of essential directions for the development of scientific research activities.

At present, concrete methods are being applied to widen scientific cooperation between the two countries. This year, the Soviet Academy of Science will invite Vietnamese zoologists, botanists, and historians, etc. to visit the Soviet Union. Vietnamese scientists will attend the International Convention of Research Scientists on the Orient, in Moscow next August. Soviet scientists of various technical branches will also go to Vietnam.

The scientific and technological cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam is growing more important every day. Soviet technicians help Vietnam study useful minerals that abound in Vietnam. In addition, the special conditions of the tropical climate of Vietnam are of great value to the research on present geological phenomena.

Medical science has also many important problems and requires cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam, namely, the substances research on antibiotic / in Vietnamese soil, the origin and propagation of malaria, etc.

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Vietnam has many types of medicinal herbs and tropical plants
as
such/coffee, cassava, jute, etc. that are indispensable to the
national economy and that do not exist in other socialist countries.
The study and cultivation of these plants have a great importance
on science and reality.

Therefore, the Soviet Union and Vietnam should unceasingly
tighten their cooperation in this field.

Another important thing is the necessity to know the effect
of tropical climates on machines, tools, and equipment. The cooperat-
ion in this domain will be expanded and advantageous to both
countries.

Soviet scientists will be able to popularize their experiences
among Vietnamese cadres in the domains of Physics, Chemistry, and
Technology. Probably, it will be necessary to send more graduate
students to the Soviet Union to undergo training or complementary
education.

Undoubtedly, the friendly cooperation between the Soviet and
Vietnamese scientists on the firm basis of proletarian international-
ism, will continue to develop to serve the interests of the people
of both countries as well as the workers of the mighty Socialist
camp.